

2835-73803

REMARKS

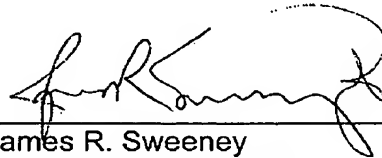
Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application, with claims 1-17, 19, 21-22, 24, 26-31 currently under consideration and claims 18, 20, 23, and 25 being withdrawn. The applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 16-19, 21, 22, 26-28, 30 and 31. Claim 31 has been amended as the Examiner has suggested to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Claim 31 is deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,215,895 to Phillips. Although applicants respectfully disagree that Phillips is anticipatory in that the barrier of Phillips augments a vehicle door contrary to claim 1's limitation that "the barrier alone generally is the only structure that impedes the occupant's egress through the exit"; applicants nonetheless have amended claim 1 to more clearly distinguish over Phillips. Support for the amendment is found for example and without limitation on page 1, lines 15-20; page 7, line 20; page 9, lines 12-23; and page 14, line 21. Claim 1 has also been amended as the Examiner has suggested to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Claim 1, and therefore all claims depending therefrom, including claims 9-15 which stand rejected, along with claim 29, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,482,104 to Lichy, is now thought to be in condition for allowance and the 103 rejection is thought to be moot. Claim 29 has been amended in the manner of claim 1 thereby overcoming the 35 U.S.C. § 112 and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

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Claims 1-17, 19, 21-22, 24, and 26-31 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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